

Amendments to the Claims

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of preparing information usable in theft detection using
2 radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, comprising steps of:
3 reading a customer identifier from a customer loyalty card; and
4 storing the customer identifier in an item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each of at least
5 one items ~~presented for purchase~~ purchased in a current transaction, such that the item-
6 identifying RFID tag affixed to each of at least one items possessed by a shopper can
7 subsequently be searched to determine whether the at least one possessed items were ~~presented~~
8 for purchase purchased in the current transaction.

1 Claim 2 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the customer
2 identifier is read with an RFID reader from a loyalty card RFID tag affixed to the customer
3 loyalty card.

1 Claim 3 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the steps
2 of:
3 subsequently searching, for each of the at least one items possessed by the shopper, the
4 item-identifying RFID tag affixed to the item to determine whether the customer identifier from
5 the customer loyalty card was previously stored therein; and
6 for any of the subsequently-searched item-identifying RFID tags for which the customer
7 identifier is determined not to be previously stored therein, concluding that the item to which the
8 item-identifying RFID tag is affixed was not paid for in the current transaction.

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1 Claim 4 (previously presented): A method of detecting potential theft using radio frequency
2 identification ("RFID") technology, comprising steps of:
3 reading, from a customer loyalty card possessed by a shopper, a customer identifier;
4 searching, for each of at least one items possessed by the shopper, an item-identifying
5 RFID tag affixed to the item to determine whether the customer identifier from the customer
6 loyalty card was previously stored therein during a particular purchase transaction; and
7 concluding that one or more selected ones of the items possessed by the shopper were not
8 paid for in the particular purchase transaction if the searching step fails to locate the customer
9 identifier in the RFID tag affixed to the selected ones.

1 Claim 5 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 4, wherein the customer
2 identifier is read from a loyalty card RFID tag affixed to the customer loyalty card.

1 Claim 6 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 4, further comprising the step of
2 storing the customer identifier in the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each of the items when
3 the items are ~~presented for purchase~~ purchased during the particular purchase transaction, prior to
4 operation of the searching step.

1 Claim 7 (previously presented): The method according to Claim 4, further comprising the step of
2 remembering each item that was in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an
3 establishment in which the particular purchase transaction was conducted, and wherein the

4 searching and concluding steps omit the remembered items.

1 Claim 8 (currently amended): A system for preparing information usable in theft detection using
2 radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, comprising:

3 means for reading a customer identifier from a customer loyalty card; and

4 means for storing the customer identifier in an item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each
5 of at least one items ~~presented for purchase~~ purchased in a current transaction, such that the item-
6 identifying RFID tag affixed to each of at least one items possessed by a shopper can
7 subsequently be searched to determine whether the at least one possessed items were ~~presented~~
8 ~~for purchase~~ purchased in the current transaction.

1 Claim 9 (previously presented): The system according to Claim 8, wherein the customer
2 identifier is read with an RFID reader from a loyalty card RFID tag affixed to the customer
3 loyalty card.

1 Claim 10 (previously presented): The system according to Claim 8, further comprising:
2 means for subsequently searching, for each of the at least one items possessed by the
3 shopper, the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to the item to determine whether the customer
4 identifier from the customer loyalty card was previously stored therein; and
5 for any of the subsequently-searched item-identifying RFID tags for which the customer
6 identifier is determined not to be previously stored therein, means for concluding that the item to
7 which the item-identifying RFID tag is affixed was not paid for in the current transaction.

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Claim 11 (canceled)

1 Claim 12 (currently amended): A system for detecting potential theft using radio frequency
2 identification ("RFID") technology, comprising:

3 means for reading, from a customer loyalty card possessed by a shopper, a customer
4 identifier; [[and]]

5 means for searching, for each of at least one items possessed by the shopper, an item-
6 identifying RFID tag affixed to the item to determine whether the customer identifier from the
7 customer loyalty card was previously stored therein during a particular purchase transaction; and

8 means for concluding that one or more selected ones of the items possessed by the
9 shopper were not paid for in the particular purchase transaction if the means for searching fails to
10 locate the customer identifier in the RFID tag affixed to the selected ones.

1 Claim 13 (previously presented): The system according to Claim 12, wherein the customer
2 identifier is read from a loyalty card RFID tag affixed to the customer loyalty card.

1 Claim 14 (currently amended): The system according to Claim 12, further comprising means for
2 storing the customer identifier in the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each of the items when
3 the items are ~~presented for purchase~~ purchased during the particular purchase transaction, prior to
4 operation of the means for searching.

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1 Claim 15 (currently amended): A computer program product for preparing information usable in
2 theft detection using radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, the computer program
3 product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

4 computer-readable program code [[means]] for reading a customer identifier from a
5 customer loyalty card; and

6 computer-readable program code [[means]] for storing the customer identifier in an item-
7 identifying RFID tag affixed to each of at least one items ~~presented for purchase~~ purchased in a
8 current transaction, such that the RFID tag affixed to each of at least one items possessed by a
9 shopper can subsequently be searched to determine whether the at least one possessed items were
10 purchased ~~presented for purchase~~ in the current transaction.

1 Claim 16 (previously presented): The computer program product according to Claim 15, wherein
2 the customer identifier is read with an RFID reader from a loyalty card RFID tag affixed to the
3 customer loyalty card.

1 Claim 17 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim 15, further
2 comprising:

3 computer-readable program code [[means]] for subsequently searching, for each of the at
4 least one items possessed by the shopper, the item-identifying RFID tag affixed to the item to
5 determine whether the customer identifier from the customer loyalty card was previously stored
6 therein; and

7 for any of the subsequently-searched item-identifying RFID tags for which the customer

8 identifier is determined not to be previously stored therein, computer-readable program code
9 [[means]] for concluding that the item to which the item-identifying RFID tag is affixed was not
10 paid for in the current transaction.

1 Claim 18 (currently amended): A computer program product for detecting potential theft using
2 radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, the computer program product embodied on
3 one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

4 computer-readable program code [[means]] for reading, from a customer loyalty card
5 possessed by a shopper, a customer identifier; [[and]]

6 computer-readable program code [[means]] for searching, for each of at least one items
7 possessed by the shopper, an item-identifying RFID tag affixed to the item to determine whether
8 the customer identifier from the customer loyalty card was previously stored therein during a
9 particular purchase transaction; and

10 computer-readable program code [[means]] for concluding that one or more selected ones
11 of the items possessed by the shopper were not paid for in the particular purchase transaction if
12 the computer-readable program code [[means]] for searching fails to locate the customer
13 identifier in the RFID tag affixed to the selected ones.

1 Claim 19 (previously presented): The computer program product according to Claim 18, wherein
2 the customer identifier is read from a loyalty card RFID tag affixed to the customer loyalty card.

1 Claim 20 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim 18, further

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2 comprising computer-readable program code ~~[[means]]~~ for storing the customer identifier in the
3 item-identifying RFID tag affixed to each of the items when the items are ~~presented for purchase~~
4 purchased during the particular purchase transaction, prior to operation of the computer-readable
5 program code ~~[[means]]~~ for searching.

Claim 21 (canceled)

1 Claim 22 (previously presented): The system according to Claim 12, further comprising means
2 for remembering each item that was in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an
3 establishment in which the particular purchase transaction was conducted, and wherein the means
4 for searching and means for concluding omit the remembered items.

1 Claim 23 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim 18, further
2 comprising computer-readable program code ~~[[means]]~~ for remembering each item that was in
3 the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which the particular
4 purchase transaction was conducted, and wherein the computer-readable program code ~~[[means]]~~
5 for searching and computer-readable program code ~~[[means]]~~ for concluding omit the
6 remembered items.

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